

**FACING THE FURNACE OF AFFLICTION**  
(Daniel 3)

1 Peter

- The context of Daniel 3

**I. The Image & Nebuchadnezzar's Demand (3:1-7)**

**A. The Image of Gold (3:1-3)**

1. What this image looked like we are not told, but perhaps it reflected some aspect of his \_\_\_\_\_ in chapter two.
2. It's dimension is 90 feet x 9 feet & it may have looked like a man, but it no doubt *represented* the \_\_\_\_\_ & the \_\_\_\_\_ of King Nebuchadnezzar.

**B. The Demand for Worship (3:4-7)**

1. At the precise moment, a decree is made turning this political dedication into a \_\_\_\_\_ service of King Nebuchadnezzar.
2. Music was the universal language Nebuchadnezzar used to \_\_\_\_\_ move the people & to \_\_\_\_\_ them to fall down & worship the image that had been set up.
3. Those who would not comply were to be \_\_\_\_\_ immediately in a burning fiery furnace.

**II. Those That Refused To Bow Down (3:8-18)**

**A. The Accusation by the Chaldeans (3:8-12)**

1. Motivated by \_\_\_\_\_ certain Chaldeans reminded the king that certain \_\_\_\_\_ that he had set in positions of authority in his kingdom were not \_\_\_\_\_ to the king's decree.
2. Three charges were leveled against Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego by these Chaldeans:
  - a. these men do not pay you your \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. they do not serve your \_\_\_\_\_, but their \_\_\_\_\_, nor...
  - c. do they \_\_\_\_\_ the golden image which you have set up.

**B. The Confrontation by Nebuchadnezzar (3:13-15)**

1. Nebuchadnezzar \_\_\_\_\_ these men, yet gives them a chance to \_\_\_\_\_ of their actions.
2. The confrontation between Nebuchadnezzar & Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego is really a confrontation between Nebuchadnezzar & the \_\_\_\_\_ of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego. This is indicated by Nebuchadnezzar's words, "*who is the god who will \_\_\_\_\_ you from my hands?*"
3. His ultimatum to them is \_\_\_\_\_ to the image or \_\_\_\_\_ in the furnace!

**C. The Response of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego (3:16-18)**

- Why would they not bow down & worship?
- They realized that Nebuchadnezzar would never be able to understand why they did what they did, so they simply \_\_\_\_\_ their lives to God's \_\_\_\_\_. (Hebrews 11:36-40; 1 Peter 4:19)

### III. Facing The Wrath Of Tribulation (3:19-23)

1. He commands the furnace to be heated \_\_\_\_ hotter than normal!
2. He orders his mighty men of valor to \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ the Jews into the burning fiery furnace.
3. Because his command was urgent & the furnace exceedingly hot, the king's own mighty men were \_\_\_\_\_ who cast the Jews into the furnace.
4. But Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego, bound by their captors, also \_\_\_\_\_ the burning fire!

### IV. God's Miraculous Deliverance (3:24-25)

- \* Certain things Nebuchadnezzar saw at the execution \_\_\_\_\_ him:
  - a. he noted \_\_\_\_\_ men in the furnace not just three
  - b. they were all \_\_\_\_\_ & walking around in the fire
  - c. none of them were \_\_\_\_\_ by the fire
  - d. the form of the 4<sup>th</sup> was \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ in appearance

### V. Nebuchadnezzar's Response (3:26-30)

#### A. His Recognition of the Most High God's \_\_\_\_\_ (3:26-27)

#### B. His Decree (3:28-30) “\_\_\_\_\_ be their God!”

- Why did he say this?
  - a. The Most High God's Angel had \_\_\_\_\_ those who \_\_\_\_\_ in Him
  - b. They had \_\_\_\_\_ the King's decree
  - c. They had yielded their \_\_\_\_\_ in service to their God—Romans 12:1-2
- Instead of suffering death in the furnace, these men were \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ in Babylon!

### VI. Seeing the Parallels of Daniel 3 In Prophecy—(Overhead)

What does all this mean to you?